

QUO WARRANTO IN NOTED CASE

A COLORADO CHARTER

Right of J. O. U. A. M. to Do Insurance Business in Pennsylvania.

On behalf of Reuben S. Hochman and William A. Pike, of Reading, members and officers of the Pennsylvania State Council, Junior Order United American Mechanics, and William M. Malr, also a member of the order, Frank M. Eastman, of Harrisburg, Pa., Thursday filed with the Attorney General a petition for a writ of quo warranto against the National Council of the order and against Amos L. Gray, George B. Bowers, Charles Helmer, A. G. Balbridge and E. H. Godfrey, acting under the title of the beneficiary degree of the order. It is proposed to compel the National Council to show by what warrant it characterizes subordinate lodges or councils of the order in the State of Pennsylvania, governs and assesses such lodges or councils, and annuals or revokes their charters at will; issues through the medium of an alleged corporation, which controls, policies of life and accident insurance; effects of officers, makes appropriations to and collects laws for the government of an association issuing policies of life and accident insurance, alleged to be a corporation of the State of Colorado; exercises the functions of a mutual aid and funeral benefit association throughout the State of Pennsylvania through the medium of the lodge system. It asks the members of the Board of Control of the beneficiary degree to show by what warrant they exercise the franchises of a corporation in Pennsylvania under the name, style and title of the beneficiary degree, Junior Order of United American Mechanics, and operate in said State as a fraternal beneficiary society under the said name, style and title. This action is said to have been the outgrowth of the trouble that has agitated the order in Pennsylvania for some time, and which had the effect of expatriating a number of the prominent members. The main contention is that the order as now constituted is doing an insurance business in this State against the law.

STEEL PLANT AT THE SOO.

British Shipbuilder Enters into Engagement for 12 Steamers.

Sir Christopher Furness, M. P., sailed from New York for England, Tuesday, taking with him signed contracts for the building of 12 freight-carrying steamers of from 6,000 to 10,000 tons dead weight capacity, the capital, nearly \$1,000,000, to be furnished by Americans. He had also made arrangements with the Cluergue interests at Sault Ste. Marie, for the erection of an immense shipbuilding plant at Sault Ste. Marie, close to the junction of the "Soo" canal and Lake Superior, where will be erected steel works which will cost approximately \$10,000,000, and the iron and coal fields of Canada will furnish the raw material.

TRADE IN THE FAR EAST.

The Standard is Trying to Buy Big English Company.

The Standard Oil Company is negotiating for the purchase of the Shell Transport & Trading Company, whose capital is \$10,000,000, with the view of getting control of the Borneo and far Eastern oil interests of that concern. It is reported in London, England, that the Standard Oil Company has offered \$40,000,000 for the Shell Company.

SCOUTS KILL A DESERTER.

His Head Brought into Camp by Native Filipino Soldiers.

Native scouts from Bengabon, province of Nueva Ecija, have killed the American Negro, David Fagin, a deserter from the Twenty-fourth (colored) infantry, who for more than two years has been leading Filipinos against the American troops. The native scouts decapitated their prisoner. The man's head, was recognized as that of Fagin's. They also secured his commission in the insurgent army. Fagin had on one of his fingers the class ring of Lieutenant Frederick W. Altstaetter, of the engineers, who was captured by Filipinos supposedly under the command of Fagin himself, October 28, 1900.

Ninth Child Victim of Tetanus.

Bessie Roosevelt, aged 7, who was stricken with tetanus following vaccination died Saturday at Camden, N. J. Nine children have died of lockjaw after having been vaccinated.

Nash Studies New York Tax Laws.

Governor Nash and Auditor Gilbert, of Ohio, were in Albany, N. Y., Saturday, studying the tax laws of New York, particularly the corporation and financial institution tax statutes. Governor Nash stated that he desired the information for his annual message.

AT THE NATIONAL CAPITOL.

It was announced that the Navy department that the court martials which tried Colonel Robert L. Meade of the Marine Corps, acquitted that officer. The President sent to the Senate Wednesday the nomination of P. C. Knox, as Attorney General.

Senator Fairbanks introduced a bill in Congress for the admission of Oklahoma as a State and providing that the capital shall be located at a town called McKinley.

President Roosevelt entertained at luncheon Wednesday, Mayor-elect Low, of New York; Senators Dewey, Platt and Frye, Secretaries Root and Hay, Attorney General Knox, Ambassador Choate and Representative Littauer, of New York.

CONGRESSIONAL NOTES.

LVII. CONGRESS.

The Senate Tuesday listened with profound respect to the President's message. Mr. Foraker, Republican, Ohio, then offered a resolution, which was adopted, to appoint a committee of 11 Senators to join such committee as shall be appointed on the part of the House to consider and report by what token of respect and attention it may be proper for the Congress to express the deep sensibility of the Nation to the tragic death of the late President, William McKinley. The Senate then adjourned. The reading of the message in the House occupied two hours. A committee consisting of one member from each State was appointed to consider and report what action to take to show respect for the late President McKinley. The House then adjourned until Friday as a mark of respect to President McKinley.

Treaty Referred.

The Senate was the only branch of Congress in session Wednesday. When Mr. Hoar, Massachusetts, sought to obtain consideration for pension bills, Mr. Morgan, objected. Mr. McComas, Maryland, gave notice that he will speak on assaults on the President and the denigration of anarchists. The Hay-Pauncefote treaty was referred to Committee on Foreign Relations. Senator Morgan introduced a bill authorizing the President to acquire the necessary canal territory from Costa Rica and Nicaragua.

Committees Announced.

In the Senate the Judiciary Committee Friday unanimously reported in favor of confirming the nomination of P. C. Knox, as Attorney General. The Senate Committee on Foreign Relations today unanimously reported favorably to the new Hay-Pauncefote treaty.

The House was in session only for a short time, during which Speaker Henderson announced the appointment of the Ways and Means Committee, Payne, of New York, Chairman; Appropriations, Cannon, Illinois, Chairman; Enrolled Bills, Wachter, Maryland, Chairman. Representative Taylor, of Ohio, introduced a bill to pension Mrs. McKinley at the rate of \$5,000 per annum.

OPENED HIS EYES IN COFFIN.

Did Not Die Until Taken to Scaffold Second Time.

Had Wilson, the convict who killed R. H. Naylor, a guard of the Yell county convict camp last December, was hanged Friday at Danville, Ark. Twenty minutes after the trap sprung the body was lowered into a coffin. Before the lid was placed upon the coffin the body began moving about. Wilson opened his eyes and his whole frame shivered. He was taken from the coffin by the deputies and carried up the steps to the scaffold for the purpose of hanging him again. When the platform was reached the body became rigid, remained so for a moment and then became limp. Wilson was examined by the physicians, who finally pronounced him dead, death having been caused by strangulation.

ARRESTED AT FUNERAL.

John Hahn, of Buffalo, Accused of Forgery at Oil City.

Called to Oil City to attend the funeral of his mother, John Hahn, of Buffalo, was arrested Tuesday, charged with forgery and bound over to court. It is alleged that Hahn forged his father's endorsement on a note for \$1,000. He says he can explain it satisfactorily.

GAVE HIM SMALLPOX.

Grandson of Jay Cooke Contracts Disease While Handling Money.

Through handling money impregnated with smallpox germs Allen Butler, of Ogontz, Philadelphia, assistant to the paying teller of Drexel & Co., bankers, was stricken on Monday with the disease and lies at home seriously ill. Mr. Butler is a grandson of Jay Cooke and a son of John M. Butler. Relatives of the young man state that he could have contracted the disease in no other manner.

ELUDED DEATH WATCH.

Murderer Breaks from Cell on Day of Execution.

Charles Brown has hanged at Mount Holly, N. J., Tuesday, for complicity in the murder of a wealthy farmer, Washington Hunter, aged 70, at Riverside. Brown made a desperate attempt to break jail just before his execution. Rev. J. C. Disinger, of Camden, was leaving the cell. Brown suddenly rushed out, armed with a piece of lead pipe. The guards fell back and Brown reached the yard, intending to scale the wall. Deputies finally overpowered him after he had struck one a severe blow.

\$135,000 FIRE AT WILKESBARRE.

Caused by Spark from Broken Electric Light Wire.

Fire broke out in the large dry goods store of Langfeld Bros. Friday, and flames spread so rapidly that the building and large stock were entirely destroyed. The clothing stores of Simon Long Sons and Weltzorn Bros., adjoining, were also badly damaged. The total loss will be about \$135,000. A spark from broken electric light wire in one of the show windows is said to have started the fire.

Want Manila Made Free Port.

The import merchants at Manila are preparing a petition which will be sent to Congress, asking that Manila be made an American port free of duty.

Boiler Near Capitol Explodes.

A boiler in the Capitol Park Conservatory and Rose House at Harrisburg, Pa., exploded Wednesday morning.

GIGANTIC CUSTOM HOUSE FRAUDS

SECRETARY INVESTIGATING.

Bribery and Collusion Between Importers and Clique of Federal Employees in New York.

Knowledge of another gigantic system of fraud in the New York custom house has reached the President and the Secretary of the Treasury almost simultaneously and the subject of investigation by special agents. The evidence so far is conclusive of widespread collusion and conspiracy. In the case under investigation the government has been cheated through bribery of custom officials by importers when a large invoice of goods comes into the port of New York. It is the custom if there are, for instance, in cases of goods, to have one of them selected and sent to the appraisers' stores for examination and appraisal. Upon the value and weight of this sample case depends the amount of duty to be paid on the whole invoice. Fraud is only possible in having some particular case selected as a sample which contains articles of less weight or of an inferior quality. This is what is alleged to have been done in numerous instances in the New York custom house. Such a thing could not be accomplished without collusion between several persons in the custom house, perhaps half a dozen. One firm who managed to evade duties in another way, profited at least \$600,000 a year. The extent of fraud is only limited by the number of importers whom those carrying on the scheme would feel safe in approaching. How long it has been going on, treasury authorities do not know. It is learned that in the matter of the selection of the sample case of goods for appraisal, the amount of the bribe in each instance was trivial, not often exceeding \$50 for each selection. Thus, for a small amount, importers in some cases saved many thousands of dollars on a small invoice. Secretary Gage is determined to root out the ring that has been at work. The matter has also reached President Roosevelt and he is giving it his personal attention.

COAL BREAKER BURNED.

The breaker of the Green Ridge Coal Company, at Scranton, Pa., was destroyed by fire Tuesday, entailing a loss of \$100,000. The breaker was one of the largest and best equipped in the Lackawanna valley. Six hundred employes were thrown out of employment.

LATEST NEWS NOTES.

Secretary Gage in his annual report favors a shipping bill. Both Houses of the Peruvian Congress have passed the gold standard law.

In a railroad collision near Kharbin, Russia, 18 Chinese and 7 Russians were killed.

The International Live Stock Exposition was formally opened at Chicago Monday.

Ambassador Choate is expected to succeed Secretary Hay, who may go to England.

Eight people were hurt in an electric car collision at Cumberland Md., Saturday.

"King" O'Keefe, who ruled a cannibal island and became a millionaire, has been lost at sea.

The British steamer Hanover, from Philadelphia, is ashore at the entrance of the river Thames.

Episcopal missionary conference finds the church deficient in enthusiasm, workers and funds.

The DuBois, Pa., Borough Council has passed a curfew ordinance over the veto of the Burgess.

A bank at Archbald, O., was robbed of \$21,000 and the escaping robbers shot a man in the jaw.

Senator Depew gives his "bachelor dinner" at Washington, the President being one of his guests.

Nurse Jane Toppan was indicted at Barnstable, Mass., for the murder of three patients by poisoning.

The wounded Colonel Berrea says Colombian insurgents will not again attack the isthmus until March.

Misses May and Flossie De la Brette were burned to death in a fire at Bayou des Allemandes, La.

Governor of Alabama has ordered troops to Andalusia to protect negro prisoners from threatened lynching.

Joseph Creelman, 8 years old, was stabbed to death by Edward Armines, aged 11, a schoolmate, in Newport, Ky.

The battleship Kearsarge has left New York to join the North Atlantic squadron at Havana during Christmas week.

Prof. John A. Brashear was elected a member of the Society of Mechanical Engineers, in session in New York.

Marshal J. B. Smith was shot dead by robbers who he detected in attempting to break into the bank of Chelsea, Ia.

The National McKinley Memorial Association insists upon Arch Association giving up their plan of dividing funds.

Grand officers of the Elks visited Lake Garden, N. J., to inspect a site offered for a National Home for members of the order.

Edward J. Mathews, president of the American District Telegraph Company, was killed by fall from his horse in Philadelphia.

Major Van Tets, of Holland, Queen Wilhelmina's body guard, who fought a duel with Prince Henry in her behalf, died of his wounds.

The American Sugar Refining Company and the National Sugar Refining Company advanced sugars, grades Nos. 13, 14 and 15, five points.

The National Live Stock convention adjourned at Chicago after deciding to meet in Kansas City on the first Tuesday in January, 1903.

The Pan-American Congress, at Mexico City, voted to endorse the proposition of ex-Senator Henry G. Davis, of West Virginia, for a Pan-American Railroad.

The heir apparent, Pu Chun, of China, has been deposed by imperial edict on the ground that his father, Prince Tuan, was the author of the Boxer trouble.

The Cramp Shipbuilding Company has notified the Porte, of Turkey, that it is ready to commence building a cruiser for the Turkish government, and has asked the government to send officers to supervise the vessel's construction.

Lunt K. Salisbury, City Attorney of Grand Rapids, Mich., was convicted of accepting a bribe of \$75,000 to help contractors in a \$4,000,000 job to furnish the city water from Lake Michigan.

A meeting at Washington under the auspices of the Women's International Union demanded Congressional legislation against polygamy, which is said to be increasing in Utah.

A voluntary assignment was made Monday by the Pittsburg Construction & Manufacturing Company, and the contracting firm of West & Wilson, of Pittsburg.

The State Department has received a draft for \$20,000 from Great Britain in payment of the claims of American citizens improperly expelled from South Africa.

BEARS IN DROVES.

West Virginia Mountaineers Worried. One Hunter Killed Four Without Leaving His Tracks.

The people living in the mountains of West Virginia are worried by the large number of black bears that have made their appearance. So numerous have they become that they are seen traveling in droves. A day or two ago George Boone, a hunter living at Meadow Bluff, shot four bears without leaving his tracks. W. W. Beye, while husking corn in a mountain field at Dove Run, saw half a dozen black bears pass through the field. He summoned a posse of neighbors and gave chase with dogs and guns, but the bears escaped. About the same time George Greenawalt shot and crippled a bear, which then showed fight, and had to be shot eight times before it finally succumbed. People are mystified at the frequency with which bears are being seen, as for many years past the sight of a bear was unusual.

FOUR TRACK LINE TO JERSEY CITY

Pennsylvania Railroad Company Will Spend Thirty Millions Next Year for Improvements.

Announcement has been made from New York that the expenditures of the Pennsylvania Railroad for improvement, new rails and new equipment this year and next will range from \$25,000,000 to \$30,000,000. Of this large sum about \$12,000,000 will go for new bridges on the lines east of Pittsburgh. There are nine big bridges ordered, some in various stages of construction and others to be erected during the coming year. A number of small bridges are also being erected and to be erected. The nine large bridges span five rivers, the Susquehanna, the Schuylkill, the Delaware, the Potomac and the Raritan. In nearly every instance these new bridges are so planned as to facilitate the construction of a through four-track line from Pittsburg to Jersey City. These bridges will shorten the running time materially by eliminating curves, grades and street crossings. The Pennsylvania Railroad bridge across the Susquehanna river at Rockville, five miles north of Harrisburg, is said to be the longest stone arch bridge in the world. It is now nearing completion. It comprises 48 stone arches of 70 feet span and a minimum width of 52 feet. This bridge is 3,320 feet long and will carry four tracks. The rails will be 51 feet above the low water and the springing line of the bridge will be 19 feet above ordinary spring water level. The total cost of the structure will exceed \$1,200,000. President A. J. Cassatt has demonstrated the practicality of having a complete telephonic service on trains in transit, and telephones are to be placed on some of the regular passenger trains on the Pennsylvania system.

MOB ATTACKED OFFICERS.

While Attempting to Arrest Boys for Stoning Street Cars.

Sunday night an attempt was made by three deputies to arrest boys who were stoning cars at Scranton, Pa. A big crowd set upon the officers and in the face of flying bullets overpowered them and laid all three of them low. Two of them, S. F. Cosgrove, a Drummond detective and B. T. Reilly, private secretary to Manager Sullivan, are in the hospital. The third, Chief Clerk J. J. Landers, was able to go home. Another crowd set upon five deputies who attempted the arrest of stone throwers and after taking their prisoners away put them in retreat with a fusillade of stones and bricks. The deputies returned with reinforcements, but the mob had disappeared.

BANK SHORTAGE \$100,000.

Doors Closed and Teller Fitcham Is Under Arrest.

The National Bank, of Ballston, N. Y., closed Tuesday, pending an investigation by a National Bank Examiner of the closing of the bank's doors followed by the discovery of irregularities in the accounts of the teller, Charles E. Fitcham. Bank Examiners Graham and Van Vranken were sent for and after a thorough examination report a shortage of \$100,000. Fitcham was bonded to the amount of \$10,000. An examination of the bank by Examiner Van Vranken last August failed to disclose any irregularities in the accounts. Fitcham was placed under arrest.

THACKER MINES COMBINE.

Red Jacket Company Takes in Five West Virginia Concerns.

Another consolidation of coal mines on the Norfolk and Western Railway in what is known as the Thacker field in West Virginia was consummated Friday. The new company is the Red Jacket Coal & Coke Company, with a capital stock of \$2,400,000. They have acquired the Red Jacket mine, the Logan mine, the Rutherford mine, the Lick Fork mine and the Maritime mine, controlling 6,000 acres of land.

MUST HAVE THE CASH.

Debenture Companies in Ohio Must Deposit \$100,000.

Attorney General Sheets of Ohio has rendered an opinion construing the Ohio debenture law. Prior to 1900 the law permitted debenture companies to enter the State upon depositing \$25,000 with the State Treasurer and an additional 25 per cent. of their gross receipts, until the aggregate amounted to \$100,000. The Attorney General holds that any such company desiring to enter the State after the law of 1900 went into effect must deposit \$100,000 at once with the State Treasurer.

DECLINES TO BE A BISHOP.

West Virginia Episcopalian Pastor Prefers the Home Work.

The Episcopal Missionary Convention, at Rochester, N. Y., adjourned Sunday, with missionary services in all of the seven Episcopal Churches in Rochester. Rev. Campbell Brown, of West Virginia, who was a short time elected Episcopal Bishop of Puerto Rico, has declined and will remain in the work in West Virginia.

Lentz Covers Alleged Shortage.

The alleged shortage of former Secretary John M. Mulford, of the American Insurance Union, of Columbus, O., amounting to \$4,000, has been made good by National President John J. Lentz and others.

Profit of Slet Machines.

Melville Ritchie, secretary of the Municipal Reform League, estimates that there are 8,400 slot machines in Cincinnati, O., and that at least \$3,080,000 is placed in them every year.

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CORNER IN HEMLOCK.

John A. DuBois, the Pennsylvania Lumber King, Said to Be Back of the Project.

Interests closely identified with those of John A. DuBois, the Pennsylvania lumber king, are back of a project having for its aim the cornering of the hemlock market. Twenty million dollars are said to be at the disposal of the combination, and persons familiar with the situation say that sum will be required to bring about the cornering of the plan. Mr. DuBois has sent representatives to half a dozen States, and their work has been performed so quietly that its intent was not revealed until the "corner" had been practically effected. The transaction is considered the most daring in the history of the lumber business. The deal had not progressed far until F. H. Goodyear & Co., of Buffalo, N. Y., and several other "lumber princes" were glad to be come identified with it. They were let in and then the lines were sharply drawn. Options have been secured when possible; when necessary purchases outright have been made. The Pittsburg, Williamsport, South Fork and Northern fields were attacked simultaneously, and they are described to be now "tight as a drum."

GOLD AND SILVER COINAGE.

Mints Turned Out \$135,340,781 During the Fiscal Year.

The report of Mint Director Roberts shows that during the year ended June 30 the coinage of the mints amounted to 176,999,132 pieces, of the value of 135,340,781. Of this \$99,065,715 was in gold, \$24,298,850, in silver dollars, \$10,965,548 in fractional silver, and \$2,009,568 in minor coin. The coinage of silver dollars was wholly from the stock of bullion accumulated under the act of July 14, 1890. The amount of this bullion on hand at the beginning of the fiscal year was \$2,268,954 standard ounces, and at the end of the year, \$2,562,927 standard ounces. The coinage of this bullion has been accelerated to enable the Treasury to retire the Treasury notes issued in its purchase, and supply the pressing demand for the small denominations of money required in retail trade.

American Steel Barred from Russia.

Commercial Agent Greener, of Vladivostok, has supplied a list of the articles whose importation into Siberia from America is affected by the Russian tariff. There is a prohibitive duty on iron or steel of American origin, and importers are required to prove other origin of their material before securing the reduced rate.

Favored a Naval Reserve.

The associations of naval militia of the States at a meeting in New York endorsed the bill presented by Congressman Foss for the organization of a naval reserve with the modifications suggested by President Roosevelt. Ohio was represented by Lieutenant Yoast and Pennsylvania by Commander Berchenberger.

Representative Brownlow has reintroduced in the House the bill of the last Congress for the creation of a park in the Southern Appalachian mountains. The bill provides that the park shall be called the McKinley National Park, and shall contain 4,000,000 acres.

Under telegraphic instructions sent from Washington by Attorney General Knox, United States Marshal Grimshaw at Minneapolis, Minn., arrested Francis S. Mayer, charged with having committed forgery in Japan.

CABLE FLASHES.

The government troops have been badly defeated in Northeast Chihli, China, by "Boxers," whose depredations are causing a great deal of trouble.

Forty Turkish soldiers have been killed near Lohela in Yemen, Arabia, in a conflict with tribesmen, who had rebelled on account of excessive taxation.

The immigration restriction bill, which excludes from Australia all persons who cannot speak a European language, has passed the Commonwealth Senate.

The Novoe Vremya, of Russia, is interested in an American project to build an Alaskan railway, bridge Bering Strait, and effect a junction with the Siberian Railway.

New York instead of sending gold to Germany is returning the German Treasury bills floated in September, 1900. The "Tageblatt," of Berlin, learns that fully half of this loan has been returned.

The fire in the Liverpool, England, Exchange building, which broke out Friday morning as the result of an explosion, was subdued after two and a half hours. The damage was considerable.

A dispatch from Constantinople to Vienna says the Austro-Hungarian Vice Consul at Smyrna, Herr Haller, was wounded November 29 by a customs guard attached to the tobacco excise administration.

The United States Philippine Commission has passed an act authorizing the insular purchasing agent to draw money in gold for the payment for supplies purchased, as the merchants refuse to sell goods for Mexican silver.

Investigations in Holland show there is foundation for the story of a duel having been fought between Prince Henry, of the Netherlands, husband of Queen Wilhelmina and Major Van Tets, the Queen's aide-de-camp.

The government of England has decided to prosecute Conor O'Kelly, M. P., and Chairman of the Mayo County Council, and several officials of County Mayo under the crimes act for holding meetings and delivering intimidating speeches in defiance of the orders of the police.